In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1   1.   [Currently amended] A method for maintaining
2   synchronization of ledger accounts between a back-end
3   procurement system and a front-end requisition and catalog
4   system on behalf of a plurality of customer companies of an
5   enterprise providing procurement services to a plurality of
6   company groups, each said company group including a
7   different plurality of said customer companies, comprising
8   the steps of:

9   associating a plurality of said customer companies
10   within a company group, said customer companies within
11   said company group using a same chart of accounts which
12   varies with respect to a chart of accounts associated
13   with a different company group of customer companies of
14   said enterprise;

15   maintaining a requisition and catalog system at each
16   said customer company;

17   maintaining said chart of accounts in said procurement
18   system at said enterprise;

19   periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,
20   account identification indicia and descriptive

21   information for a given customer company;

22   communicating said account identification indicia and
23   descriptive information to said requisition and catalog
24   system for each said customer company of a given
25   company group;

26   at said requisition and catalog system, storing said
27   indicia and information in a data store of valid
28   general ledger accounts associated with said company
29   group for said given customer company;

30   associating commodity codes with said account
31   identification indicia;

32   pushing commodity code/account identification
33   associations to all other companies in said company
34   group of said given customer company;

35   responsive to a user request for a requisition of a
36   commodity, providing a selection list of valid account
37   codes and descriptions authorized for purchase by users
38   from companies within said company group.

2.   [Canceled]

3.   [Canceled]

1   4.   [Currently amended] A procurement accounting system

END920000168us1   3 of 18   S/N 09/815,317

2   for a plurality of customer companies of an enterprise

3   providing procurement services to a plurality of company

4   groups, each said company group including a different

5   plurality of said customer companies, comprising:

6   a back-end procurement system;

7   a front-end requisition and catalog system;

8   a first chart of accounts store maintained in said

9   procurement system;

10   a second chart of accounts maintained in said

11   requisition and catalog system of a given customer

12   company within a given group of customer companies

13   which differs from a chart of accounts for a different

14   group of said customer companies;

15   an extract utility at said procurement system for

16   periodically extracting from said first chart of

17   accounts, account identification indicia and

18   descriptive information for a given company;

19   an update utility at said requisition and catalog

20   system for associating said account identification

21   indicia with commodity codes and company group codes;

22   a data store for storing said indicia and information;

END920000168us1   4 of 18   S/N 09/815,317

23   a company group table for storing company identifiers
24   associated with each of a plurality of company group
25   codes;

26   said update utility further for pushing to all
27   companies within a company group code associations of
28   commodity codes and account identification indicia
29   entered for a given company within said company group
30   codes; and

31   an output device responsive to a user request for a
32   purchase of a commodity for displaying a selection list
33   of valid account codes and descriptive information for
34   said company group code.

6.   [Canceled]

7.   [Canceled]

1   8.   [Currently amended] A program storage device readable
2   by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3   executable by a machine to perform method steps for
4   maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts between a
5   back-end procurement system and a front-end requisition and
6   catalog system on behalf of a plurality of customer
7   companies of an enterprise providing procurement services to
8   a plurality of company groups, each said company group
9   including a different plurality of said customer companies,
10   said method steps comprising:

END920000168us1   5 of 18   S/N 09/815,317

11   associating a plurality of <u>customer</u> companies within a

12   company group, said <u>customer</u> companies within said

13   group using a same chart of accounts which differs from

14   a chart of accounts for a different group of said

15   <u>customer</u> companies;

16   maintaining a chart of accounts in said procurement

17   system;

18   periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,

19   account identification indicia and descriptive

20   information for a given company;

21   communicating said indicia and information to said

22   requisition and catalog system of said given company;

23   at said requisition and catalog system, storing said

24   indicia and information in a data store of valid

25   general ledger accounts associated with said company

26   group code for said given <u>customer</u> company;

27   associating commodity codes with said account

28   identification indicia;

29   pushing commodity code/account identification

30   associations to all other companies in said company

31   group of said given <u>customer</u> company; and

32   responsive to a user request for a requisition of a

END920000168us1   6 of 18   S/N 09/815,317

33   commodity, providing a selection list of valid account

34   codes and descriptions authorized for purchase by users

35   from companies within said company group.

1   9.   [Currently amended]   A computer program product or

2   computer program element for maintaining synchronization of

3   ledger accounts between a back-end procurement system and a

4   front-end requisition and catalog system on behalf of a

5   plurality of customer companies of an enterprise providing

6   procurement services to a plurality of company groups, each

7   said company group including a different plurality of said

8   customer companies according to method steps comprising:

9   associating a plurality of companies within a company

10   group, companies within said group using a same chart

11   of accounts which differs from a chart of accounts for

12   a different group of said companies;

13   maintaining a chart of accounts in said procurement

14   system;

15   periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,

16   account identification indicia and descriptive

17   information for a given _customer_ company;

18   communicating said indicia and information to said

19   requisition and catalog system;

20   at said requisition and catalog system, storing said

END920000168us1   7 of 18   S/N 09/815,317

21   indicia and information in a data store of valid

22   general ledger accounts associated with said company

23   group code for said given <u>customer</u> company;

24   associating commodity codes with said account

25   identification indicia;

26   pushing commodity code/account identification

27   associations to all other companies in said company

28   group of said given <u>customer</u> company;

29   responsive to a user request for a requisition of a

30   commodity, providing a selection list of valid account

31   codes and descriptions authorized for purchase by users

32   from companies within said company group.

10.   [Canceled]

11.   [Canceled]

END920000168us1   8 of 18   S/N 09/815,317